

SUMMARY

NORRIS-SIVERTSEN HOUSE HA-1541

This two-story el-shaped frame house may not have been built until the third quarter of the 19th century, although an 1830 datestone suggests otherwise. (The 1858 Jennings & Herrick Map shows no house in this location--the 1878 Martenet's Map does.) In that case, the house was built by David Lee Norris and an advertisement for the sale of his estate in 1886 describes the farm as having a "good dwelling, barn, granary, ice house, and other necessary outbuildings." The Norris family was quite prominent in this area: Benjamin Bradford Norris signed the Harford Declaration of Independence in 1774, and John Norris built the brick house at "Olney."

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Norris-Sivertsen House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION (East side Old Joppa Road, between Whitaker Mill Road and Hollingsworth Road.)

STREET & NUMBER

731 Old Joppa Road near Wilna

CITY, TOWN

Joppa

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. William Sivertsen

Telephone #: 877-2951

STREET & NUMBER

731 Old Joppa Road

CITY, TOWN

Joppa

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD

21085

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

MD

21014

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

HA-1541

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two-story, gable-roofed frame house is located on the east side of Old Joppa Road between Whitaker Mill Road and Hollingsworth Road.

Set on a low stone foundation, the house is el-shaped and faces west, with the ell extending to the east and a recent one-story addition on the south side. With two brick chimneys inside each end and a boxed cornice, the west section is three bays wide and one bay deep and the ell is two bays wide and one room deep. Windows in the west section have 1/1 sash with square-cut, wide, beaded trim, and those in the east section have 6/6 sash. Two dormers with gable returns are located in the center bay of both the west and east sides of the west section and the center bay of the north side of the ell. A porch that spans the east side of the west section covers the two west bays of the ell. The house is now covered in aluminum siding.

The interior of the west section has a center hall plan. The ell has one room with a winder staircase in the northeast corner. In the west section, the trim has deep flutes and corner blocks; the center open string staircase has scrolled step-ends, tapered balusters and a chamfered newell. At least some of the lath in the basement stairwell and the lath in the attic in the west section is circular sawn.

An old photograph (late 19th century?) shows the house as clapboard with 6/6 windows and louvered shutters and an entrance portico supported on two pairs of two columns.

"A"

On the property are several outbuildings including a two-story board-and-batten barn east of the house. Facing west, the barn is set on a high stone foundation and has a center front gable. Parts of the east side of the foundation have been replaced with cement blocks and the fenestration here has been rearranged. On the interior, the framing is mostly of sawn lumber, although at least the collar beams are hewn with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. The interior structural system consists of two sets of post and beam arrangements perpendicular to the ridge line, each composed of four posts and two collar beams, each post with one member on either side bracing the collar beam above it, the roof plate resting on the uppermost collar beam. The latter supports two trusses at either end, which in turn support the rafters.

In a stone in the south end of the barn, on the east side of the door, is carved the date 1898 and several lines of indecipherable characters.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Norris-Sivertsen House, located on the east side of Old Joppa Road, faces that road (west) and lies west of Winters Run on a 19.72 acre parcel of land currently owned by William E. and Lillian Sivertsen. This parcel can be traced back to the mid-18th and early 19th centuries as part of land belonging to the Norris family. The surrounding area was originally called "Wilna" and that post office was located at the intersection of the present Old Joppa and Hollingsworth Roads. Many parcels in this area transferred ownership among the Norris' and a few other influential families of the time.

Specifically, the property can be traced to one David Lee Norris, who died in 1883.¹ Prior to that, land and will records give no specific references; however it is probable that Edward Norris, who died in 1793,² left this tract as part of the property in this area to his first son Edward. One tract of land owned by Edward called "Norris' Venture" was located in this vicinity, "west of Winters Run" and could be encompassing or overlapping this property. The younger Edward Norris is listed on the 1814 Tax List as owning "140 acres, 2 slaves and one 40' X 18' wood dwelling, kitchen (18' X 20') stable, and one old outhouse" in the third district. When this Edward Norris died in 1839³ he left his property to his family, including one son, David Lee Norris.

The 1858 Jennings & Herrick Map lists no dwelling in this area. The 1878 Martenet's Map lists a dwelling in this location under the name of "Lee Norris." Since there is no Lee Norris mentioned either in the land records or any other resources, this must certainly be David Lee Norris. This also indicates that the house was probably built between these two dates. Although a cornerstone on the foundation is marked "1830," an earlier foundation may have been used for the present structure.

In his will, David Lee Norris mentions a "farm on a public road near Union Chapel two miles from the Wilna Post Office." The executor of his will, Garrett Amos(s), advertised the property in the "Bel Air Times" and the "Harford Democrat" in 1886. The ad describes the property as consisting of "155 acres, More or Less... and is in a high state of cultivation. The improvements consist of a good DWELLING, BARN, GRANARY, ICE-HOUSE and other necessary out-buildings." According to the inventory in the will, and also the description contained in this ad, this farm must have been a prosperous one. The furniture listed suggests a comfortable house with a parlor, sitting room, hall, breakfast room, several bedrooms and a garrett/servants' quarters.

(continued)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land, will & equity records of Harford County
 1814 Tax List
 1858 Martenet's Map
 1878 Jennings & Herrick Map
 Our Harford Heritage, C. Milton Wright
 History of Harford County, Walter W. Preston
 CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Natalie Shivers, Historic Site Surveyor/ Bonnie Alexander 4/80

ORGANIZATION

Historic District Commission of Harford County

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

838-6000 X207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air,

STATE

MD 21014

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

The Norris family was a large and influential one in the history of Harford County. Preston's History of Harford County traces the family back to one Benjamin Norris the Elder, who settled in the year 1690 and lived at a farm called "Everly Hills" (the present Waverly). In 1770, one Edward Norris built the first house in the town later known as "Norrisville." He was also a member of the First Petit Jury. Benjamin Bradford Norris, named after his grandfather, was one of the signers of the Harford Declaration of Independence in 1774. He was also a soldier in the revolutionary army and served in a company raised and commanded by his brother Jacob, who became a colonel. John S. Norris, another of the brothers Norris, was one of the incorporators and represented the Church of England when Union Chapel was built near Wilna. He also participated in the formation of the first Harford Mutual Insurance Company. In 1810, this same John Norris built the house which now stands at "Olney." In 1857, David Lee Norris was⁴ appointed one of the trustees of the schoolhouse built near the Union Chapel.

All-in-all the Norris-Sivertsen House stands as a fine example of 19th century rural architecture, and exemplifies a prosperous farm of that period in Harford County.

1. Will Records Liber WSR 10, Folio 13
2. Will Records Liber AJ 2, Folio 490
3. Will Records Liber TSB 5, Folio 388.
4. Liber ALJ 30, Folio 253

TITLE SEARCH

NORRIS-SIVERTSEN HOUSE HA-1541

853/464	8/24/70	Grantor: Clara L. Scheeler, widow Gary B. & Ethel L. Scheeler Grantee: William E. & Lillian Sivertsen Acreage: 19.72 A.
GRG 390/443	3/18/1953	Grantor: Donald B. & Iola M. Weaver Grantee: William M. & Clara L. Scheeler Geary B. & Ethel L. Scheeler Acreage: 108 A., 2 R, 5 [P]
GRG 386/541	12/22/52	Grantor: Carl Dean & Geneva Todd Grantee: Donald B. & Iola M. Weaver Acreage: 108 A., 2 R, 5 [P]
GCB 278/459	9/3/43	Grantor: George E. Henning & Emogene (wife) Robert H. Henning Grantee: Carl D. Todd & Geneva (wife) Acreage: 108 A., 2 R, 5 [P]
SWC 241/272	5/19/36	Grantor: Catherine L. Beatty Grantee: George E. & Emogene Porter Henning Robert H. Henning Acreage: 127 A., 1 R, 20 [P]
CSW 17/354	3/23/25	Will of Millard Fillmore Beatty
JAR 142/296	10/13/1913	Grantor: Gilbert H. Panitz (executor for Wm. R. Beatty) Grantee: Millard Fillmore Beatty Acreage: 127 A. (1 of 3 farms)
WSF 125/224	10/22/08	Grantor: Charles B. Martin & Sarah H. (wife) Grantee: William R. Beatty Acreage: 127 A.
WSF 120/489	5/15/07	Grantor: Martha T. & Josephine P. Amoss Mary E. & Frank Taylor Grantee: Charles B. & Sarah H. Martin Sum: \$4500 Acreage: 127 A.
HTB 13/186	10/15/03	Will of Garrett Amoss
ALJ 57/399	1/8/87	Grantor: William Lee Amoss Grantee: Garrett Amoss Sum: \$6,425 Acreage: 153 A., 3 R, 12 [P]

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Title Search
Norris-Sivertsen House
HA-1541

ALJ 57/313	12/14/1886	Grantor: Garrett Amos(s) (executor of will of David Lee Norris) Grantee: William Lee Amos(s) Sum: \$6,425 Acreage: 153 A., 3 R, 12 [P]
WSR 10/13	1883	Will of David Lee Norris

EDGEWOOD USGS QUADRANGLE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





Norris-Sivertsen House HA-1541
Joppa, MD 21085
Natalie Shivers 2/80
Northwest



Norris-Sivertsen House HA-1541

Joppa, MD 21085

Natalie Shivers 2/80

North side of east wing